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ABSTRACT

This report examines eight federal agencies--the Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Science Foundation, the Department of Labor, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Aging (NIA), the Department of Justice, and the Department of Defense (DOD)--to develop a picture of how much federal funding was allocated between 1980 and 1984 to support research on women. From the eight agencies, three types of funding are identified: (1) monies to support research that explicitly focuses on women; (2) monies to support research that indirectly relates to women; and (3) pre- and post-doctoral fellowship programs. The available data are varied in quality and often are recorded differently by the agencies. Some agencies have little or no data available. Within the constraints of the available data, however, there are observable trends that show that federal funding for research about women has decreased and that the priorities for research have shifted in the funding that remains. The overall effect has been a change in the character of federally funded research and the subsuming of research about women into areas less clearly focused on women. Data is displayed in 14 tables and 3 statistical charts. A list of eight references is included. (DB)

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A Declining Federal Commitment to Research about Women, 1980 - 1984

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A Report from the Commission on New Funding Priorities of

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN

SO 021 683

prepared by **Mary Rubin**

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A DECLINING FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH ABOUT WOMEN, 1980-1984

A Report from the
Commission on New Funding Priorities

Revised August 15, 1985

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PREFACE

This report was originally prepared for presentation at the annual membership meeting of the National Council for Research on Women, which was held at the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College in May, 1985. The meeting was attended by more than fifty representatives of research centers and other scholars concerned with research, policy analysis, and educational programs relating to women and girls.

Subsequently, the Council received numerous requests for the report from foundation officials, legislative staff members, women's groups, members of the academic community, and the media. It was therefore decided to reprint the report for wider distribution. In the process, we have incorporated additional information received since last May.

The report was prepared by Mary Rubin, Research Associate at the Russell Sage Foundation, under the general direction of the Council's Commission on New Funding Priorities. The publication and distribution of the report is funded by a grant from the American Can Company Foundation.

Mariam K. Chamberlain
President
National Council for Research on Women
September, 1985

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

One of the most difficult aspects of preparing a report such as this is to identify and obtain access to the relevant datasets. "Women" is a comparatively new term in the classification systems used to index federally-funded research projects. In many cases, special runs of computerized agency records were done. Several individuals--inside and outside of "official" Washington--were enormously helpful in sharing their personal contacts within particular agencies who enabled such printouts to be generated. While I cannot mention all of them here, I would like to express my appreciation for their assistance.

Betty Parsons Dooley and Jane Roberts Chapman, in drawing on their considerable expertise about the byways of the federal bureaucracy, facilitated the initial data collection of the project. Noralee Frankel of the American Historical Association provided initial printouts from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Joyce Lazar and her staff untangled the complexities of the computerized grants management database of the National Institute of Mental Health. At a later stage of the project, Rikki Abzug of the Institute for Research in History analyzed NEH annual reports.

Finally, I am grateful to the Russell Sage Foundation for enabling me to prepare this report under the auspices of the National Council for Research on Women.

Mary Rubin
Russell Sage Foundation
New York City
August 15, 1985

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INTRODUCTION

As the contemporary women's movement gained momentum during the 1970's, foundations and government agencies introduced programs covering a wide variety of activities designed to overcome sex discrimination and to advance opportunities for women. Formal programs of support were established in education, employment, legal rights, community affairs, and culture. A major development during this period was the emergence and growth of systematic research about women in response to the need to address public policy issues and to contribute to knowledge and understanding of women's historical and contemporary roles in society.

Prior to the 1970's, research about women was largely limited to the work of individual scholars working in isolation within their own disciplines. Women's studies programs first appeared on campus in 1969, and scholarly research about women began a period of unprecedented growth. Today there are nearly 500 women's studies programs on campuses throughout the country involving teaching and research across a wide range of academic disciplines.

Organized centers for research about women also came into being for the first time during the seventies. Today there are over fifty such centers throughout the United States, most of them campus-based but others free-standing. Collectively, they provide institutional resources for research that supplement the efforts of individual scholars and make possible the development of large scale and interdisciplinary research programs. The results of their research have shaped the curricula of women's studies and new courses across the liberal arts and have also been brought to bear on the formation of public policy concerning women, families, children, and the aged.

Nearly all of the centers received core support from private foundations, primarily the Ford Foundation but also from the Carnegie Corporation and the Mott Foundation, among others. Supplementary funding came from project grants from other foundations, government agencies, and corporate and individual contributions. Among the federal agencies that provided substantial project funds to the research centers have been: the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, the National Institute of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the Labor Department.

Federal budget cuts since 1981 and the prospect of further cuts in the coming years posed problems for the sustained work of the centers. In order to share resources and develop collaborative programs, the centers joined in establishing the National Council for Research on Women as a working alliance. At the annual meeting of Council

members, held in Washington, DC in June 1984, representatives from the Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Institute of Mental Health met with the directors of the research centers. As a result of the concerns about budget cuts for programs of research and social policy related to women expressed at this meeting, the Board of the National Council voted to establish a Commission on New Funding Priorities. The Commission was charged with monitoring federal agencies and other funding sources including private foundations and corporate sources. Over the past year, the Commission began the work of collecting and analyzing information about funded research on women.

Commission Report

The Funding Commission of the National Council examined the relative amounts of support for basic, applied, and policy research about women since 1980. Several major studies provided important benchmarks.

Major Studies

A Ford Foundation report, entitled Financial Support of Women's Programs in the 1970's (1979), reviews private and government funding from its inception in 1971 to the year 1976. Subsequent data is fragmentary for government agencies but more readily available for foundations from the Foundation Grants Index, published annually by the Foundation Center. The Foundation Center has also published since 1981 an annual listing of Grants for Women and Girls as one of eleven COMSEARCH: Broad Topics that are computer printouts derived from the Center's grants database.

Federal funding of overall research in the social and behavioral sciences is currently being monitored by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA). They analyzed nearly forty agency, program, and department budgets containing funding for research in the social and behavioral sciences. They do not, however, specifically identify research relating to women within their broad subject categories. In their report, FY1985 Budgets for Social and Behavioral Science Research (COSSA Washington Update February 10, 1984), COSSA concluded that overall the budgets show a modest net increase in support for basic research in the social and behavioral sciences. However, the increases are mainly in the research budgets of mission agencies dealing with particular topics such as defense and alcohol and drug abuse, while research programs that deal with social services and social policy have been cut.

Although the Commission has collected data on levels of private foundation support, the present report focuses on federal funding for the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. The reasons are two fold: private and corporate foundations have increased their overall support of programs of concern to women but not enough to compensate to any significant extent for the declines in federal funding; moreover, the increase in non-governmental support has been mainly in the delivery of social services and related activities rather than research as such.

This report examines eight agencies--the Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Labor (DOL), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Aging (NIA), the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Department of Defense (DOD). The decision to proceed on an agency by agency basis reflects the absence of any centralized database comparable to that of the Foundation Center for private foundation support.

From these eight agencies, three types of funding have been identified: (i) monies to support research that explicitly focuses on women; (ii) monies to support research that indirectly relates to women and their concerns but that does not view gender as the central variable; and (iii) pre- and post-doctoral fellowship programs. In one case--that of the National Endowment for the Humanities--the report also includes data on the relationship between the applicant pool and actual recipients arranged according to the field of study.

In order to compare gender-related research funding with agency totals, we have presented aggregate agency budget data as supplied by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) in their 1985 annual report on research support of all federal agencies.

To obtain an overall sense of federal research support for all disciplines, we have drawn on Federal Funds for Research and Development prepared by NSF. Table 1 presents the "big picture," i.e. aggregate funding levels for eight categories of basic research during the FY1978- FY1984 period. These data permit across-the-board assessments of research support levels between, for example, the social sciences and physical sciences. Table 1 shows that even at its peak funding level in FY1980, federal support of the social sciences lagged far behind the "hard" sciences. Support for humanities research is, unfortunately, not broken out in this table.

We note that we have used the term "grant" broadly to refer to all extramural funding support even though the administrative instrument to support a particular research project may have been a contract rather than a grant. The use of contracts varies by agency. The Department of Labor, for example, disbursed a considerable portion of its R&D funds as contracts, while NEH did not.

See the appendix for a discussion of the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange database that made an effort to provide this function until the 1970s until it was defunded by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 1981.

TABLE 1

Federal Obligations for Basic Research, Total All Agencies
Fiscal years 1978-1984
(thousands of dollars)

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983'	1984'
Total all fields	3,698,604	4,192,655	4,674,156	5,041,295	5,481,605	6,086,013	6,615,380
Psychology	84,049	75,069	84,206	90,992	89,875	99,017	105,190
Social Sciences	124,347	129,718	147,180	136,951	120,198	125,169	136,364
Engineering	375,985	434,658	465,228	526,018	610,467	665,455	786,041
Environmental Sciences	451,278	457,284	522,360	532,833	520,049	560,316	605,396
Life Sciences	1,588,390	1,891,777	2,054,425	2,223,848	2,526,017	2,796,346	2,926,579
Math & Computer Sciences	97,737	104,164	116,258	140,360	165,064	195,780	239,993
Physical Sciences	941,421	1,050,002	1,220,588	1,324,940	1,393,844	1,556,765	1,731,484
Other	35,397	49,993	63,991	65,353	56,091	87,165	83,793

Source: National Science Foundation, *Federal Funds for Research and Development*, n.d.
'Estimates only.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings of this report reflect post-1980 quantifiable data available from eight federal agencies. The data are varied in quality and are often differently recorded by the agencies. More disturbing are agencies from which little or no data can be obtained. The lack of available records about research in general, and research on women since 1980 in particular, effectively blocks the monitoring of public monies within several major agencies. These include the Departments of Labor and Defense--where research in the service of public policy has had a long tradition.

Within the constraints of the available data, however, there are observable trends which serve to support the sense among members of the National Council for Research on Women that federal funding for research about women has decreased and that the priorities for research have shifted in the funding that remains. The overall effect has been a change in the character of federally-funded research and the subsuming of research about women into areas less clearly focused on women.

What follows is an agency by agency summary of the decline and shift in funding:

Department of Education

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), the National Institute of Education (NIE), and the Women's Educational Equity Act Program (WEEA) are parts of the Department of Education that had supported research about women. Since 1980, NIE funding has declined until it effectively has ceased to reach into the research community outside the state-based research labs. FIPSE's budget has declined $2 million, from $13.5 million to $11.7 million, between FY1981 and FY1984. Despite a history of strong support for women and an acknowledged high rate of success for its projects, FIPSE has been slated for no funds in the proposed FY1986 budget, as it had previously been threatened in FY1982. Ominously, FIPSE has already postponed this year's Mina Shaughnessy Scholars competition. The prospects for WEEA are similar to those of FIPSE. Each year it has had to fight for its continued existence.

National Endowment for the Humanities

Support for research and educational activities related to women declined precipitously between FY1981 and FY1983. The NEH budget declined $20 million dollars in these two years. At the same time, support for women-related projects declined by $1 million. This represents a nearly 50% decline in support for women-related projects in comparison with an overall 14% decline in the total NEH

budget. Although the percent of applicant pool to funded projects across all fields remained markedly stable during the period, the percent of applicant pool to funded projects in women's studies fell sharply: 55.7% in FY1981 to 28.3% in FY1983.

The FY1984 budget registered an increase exceeding FY1981 in the number of awards, absolute dollars, and in percent of total budget. Support for women-related projects increased by $1.5 million to reach a total of $2.4 million. Of the 150 gender-related awards made in FY1984, 63 were for $500 and another 33 for less than $10,000. In sum, the FY1984 increase is marked by the introduction of large numbers of very small grants, rather than by substantial funding of long term research in women-related projects.

National Science Foundation

Patterns of NSF funding for both research about women and research relating to women in the social and behavioral sciences exhibited uneven declines between FY1979 and FY1983. Gender-related research peaked in FY1981 at $2.3 million. This trend reflects the general climate of decline within NSF during the FY1979-FY1983 period for the Division of the Social and Economic Sciences and the Division of the Behavioral and Neural Sciences. Major gender research areas supported by these divisions were primarily in economics and psychology. Topics included: women's employment status, wage differentials, household time use, family income dynamics, women in science, and sex differences in cognitive behavior.

Department of Labor

This agency was singularly unresponsive to our requests for information about research support. In the past, two entities within the Department have supported social science research relating to women--the Employment and Training Administration and the Women's Bureau. Both have been reduced to negligible proportions during the period under review. Little is known about support elsewhere in the Department.

National Institute of Mental Health

The aggregate funding of NIMH support for studies related to women increased between FY1983 and FY1984. However, the level of funding to support studies directly about women fell sharply. In dollar amount support for research about women declined by almost three million--over 40%--between FY1980 and FY1982. Funding for projects about women fell by over one million between FY1982 and FY1984. In the same two year, FY1982-FY1984, however, there was a 50% increase in studies indirectly related to women, increasing from two to four million dollars.

Department of Defense

Several sources indicate that the Pentagon is engaged in a substantial number of social science investigations and is perhaps a larger supporter of social science research than, for example, the National Institute of Mental Health. According to COSSA, the identification of support levels for this type of research is elusive. Despite concerted effort, we were unable to locate resources to investigate more precisely the nature of Pentagon involvement in research about women during the 1978-1981 period. More important, an examination of 1980-1984 projects must also be deferred until such data become available. Given the current political climate, we are highly skeptical that such data will be forthcoming.

The Veteran's Administration reported on twelve research projects about women between 1978-1981 to the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange (SSIE) database. Lack of details prevents an analysis of funding trends for projects about women supported by this agency since 1980.

Department of Justice

In the 1970s, the Department of Justice was a dedicated supporter of research about women in the criminal justice system--women as criminals, victims, prison inmates, and enforcement and correctional professionals--through its National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Law Enforcement Administrative Agency. NIJ categorical award funding levels for research projects about or relating to women peaked at $642,000 in FY1980. Subsequently, funding levels on these subjects moved erratically from $10,000 in FY1981 to $239,000 in FY1984. Categorical awards for similar projects made by other avenues within the Department between FY1976 and FY1980 totalled $1.484 million. Beginning in FY1980, however, zero funding occurred in this area except for three small grants on rape research totalling $127,000 in FY1984.

National Institute of Aging

The National Institute of Aging (NIA) has the distinctive characteristic of rising funding to support social and behavioral research as a whole between fiscal years 1980 and 1984. Consistent with this overall agency trend, funding levels in the Behavioral Sciences Research Division that supported extramural research related to women also increased during this period. Grant awards with titles which indicated a focus on women more than doubled: from $307,000 in FY1980 to $765,000 in FY1983.

For the present, the Reagan administration's threats to abolish this agency appear to have subsided, although several successful programs of relevance to women have been targeted for severe--or total--funding reductions. While Congress has often intervened since 1980 to prevent funding terminations--the Women's Educational Equity Act Program being perhaps the most notable example--significant declines to support service-delivery and research projects about women have occurred.

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), the National Institute of Education (NIE), and the Women's Equity Act Program (WEEA) are three focal points within the Department for research and project support about women and education.

FIPSE

The total FIPSE budget declined by almost $2 million--from $13.5 million to $11.7 million--between FY1981 and FY1984. Despite the Administration's acknowledgement that FIPSE-supported programs have been successful and its constant rhetoric about the need for "excellence in education," Congressional action was required last year to prevent the Administration from slashing FIPSE's budget in half. In its budget proposals for FY1986, the Administration is proposing to eliminate FIPSE.

Since its establishment, FIPSE has been a particularly important source of support for innovative approaches toward educational equity. Between FY1973-FY1975, the Fund supported $2.3 million for projects about women. Funding data provided by Klein and Dauito (1982) show that funding levels for projects on women were just under $2 million in the fiscal years 1980 and 1981.

Already this year's competition for the Mina Shaughnessy Scholars program has been postponed. In the past, about twenty educational practictioners--including teachers, students, writers and educational administrators--have annually received up to $20,000 each to enable them to reflect and write about their experiences in working toward educational equity.

NIE

NIE supports research, dissemination, and training activities for students, teachers, and administrators at all levels of education. Under the Carter administration, NIE targeted a special program to enhance educational equity for girls, women, and minorities. Its accomplishments included: the preparation and production of numerous publications (training manuals, research reports and other monographs); widespread access to special research training

opportunities for graduate students, post-docs, and faculty; research conferences; and leadership development to increase the representation and upward mobility of women and minorities within educational administration. Since 1980, this formal program was discontinued and its staff transferred to other sections within the Institute.

NIE's total budget has been reduced by 25% since FY1981. In addition, the overall ability of NIE to fund individual researchers and organizations unconnected with the state-based educational laboratories and educational research centers that are now the Institute's major program initiative has fallen off.

Table 2 shows a sharp decline in NIE funding for extramural projects about women and minorities. The peak in this type of support occurred slightly earlier in NIE as compared to the other federal agencies discussed in this report. The support of projects about women and minorities plummeted from $3.4 million in FY1980 to slightly over one-half million dollars during the following fiscal year. In FY1982, the level of funding was one-tenth of the prior year ($55,000 and $572,000 respectively). A modest increase between FY1982 and FY1983 was completely ineffectual in restoring gender- and race-related funding even to the FY1981 level, let alone the FY1980 level or earlier levels under the Carter administration.

NIE grants fell into four groupings, ranked roughly by frequency: training grants for pre- and post-doctoral fellowships in either research or leadership endeavors; faculty development grants; "networking" grants; and dissemination projects.

The following project titles are illustrative of the kinds of NIE grants included in our analysis of the FY1979-FY1983 period:

-- Expanding Opportunities for Minorities and Women in Educational Research and Development: the Mentorship/Fellow Model

-- Advanced Study and Research in Science Education for Women Faculty at Minority Institutions

-- Cultural Integration of Asian-American Professional Women: Problems of Identity and Communication Behavior

-- Post-doctoral Training to Develop New Opportunities in Educational Research for Women and Minorities

Sharp declines in the number of grants between fiscal years 1979 and 1983 are also noticeable, as Table 2 indicates. We note that only two grants included in the FY1982 section of the printout supported projects about women. Both were concerned with training to the exclusion of any of the other three major types of NIE-type activities. In FY1983, again only two grants supported projects about women. While these were indeed research projects, they were quite narrow in their focus.

Data to examine the FY1984 funding levels for NIE-supported projects on women and minorities are not yet available. We know from other sources, however, that the trends in funding for gender-related research discussed above continue unabated.

Women's Educational Equity Act

The Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA), created by Congress in 1974, is exclusively devoted to projects that overcome discrimination toward women and girls. Although its primary mission is not research, it has been an important source of support, especially for projects in primary and secondary education. Each year since 1981, WEEA has been targeted for extinction. To date, however, it has succeeded in securing an annual appropriation from a high of $10 million in FY1980 to roughly $5.8 million in FY1982. In subsequent fiscal years, its budget has remained at this level.

TABLE 2

National Institute of Education (NIE) Grants, FY1979-FY1984
(Research, Training, and Evaluation Projects)

(in millions, rounded to nearest thousand)

	FY1979	FY1980	FY1981	FY1982	FY1983	FY1984
Total Agency Budget	n/a	n/a	$65.6	$53.1	$55.6	$48.3
Women & minority projects	$4.398	$3.406	$ 0.572	$0.055	$0.168	n/a
Number of grants about women and minorities	35	20	13	2	2	n/a

SOURCES:
Special computer run of NIE grants management database.
COSSA Washington Update, February 1985.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Congress created the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1965 as an independent agency to support scholarly and educational programs in the humanities. The activities of the Endowment are designed to promote and support the production and dissemination of knowledge in the humanities, especially as it relates to the serious study and discussion of contemporary values and public issues. In the 1970s, projects about women were supported in each of the six Endowment divisions.

FY1980-FY1983

Support for research projects related to women declined precipitously in the three fiscal years following FY1979. Two kinds of data document these declines in the FY1981-FY1983 period: (a) aggregate funding levels and (b) a ranked ratio of submitted projects to funded projects according to field--women's studies is one such field--as presented in the tables and charts below.

Support for research and educational activities related to women substantially declined between FY1981 and FY1983 according to both sets of available data. However, FY1984 registered an increase exceeding FY1981 in the number of awards, in absolute dollars, and in percent of total budget of the Endowment. (See discussion below). The overall NEH budget declined $20 million (from $151.3 to $130.1) in the two years between FY1981 and FY1983. At the same time, support for women-related projects declined by one million dollars, from 1.25% of the total budget to 0.67%. This represents nearly a 50% decline in support for women-related projects in comparison with an overall 14% decline in total agency funds.

Furthermore, the percent of applicant pool to recipients across all fields remained markedly stable during this period. By contrast, the percentage of funding for women's studies fell off sharply: from 55.7% in FY1981 to 28.3% in FY1983. (See Tables 4-6 and Charts 1-3.)

FY1984

An analysis of the NEH annual report for FY1984 and a newly obtained Endowment-generated computer run of its projects related to women provide the basis for subsequent analyses of the FY1984 period.

In FY1984, the entire Endowment budget increased by $10 million to $140.5 million. Support for women-related projects increased by $1.524 million to reach a total of $2.4 million or 1.73% of the available funds. While the increase is a welcome sign, the distribution pattern of the awards leaves less to applaud. In FY1984, 150 grants were awarded for women-related research, more than double the number of FY1980 grants (66)--the previous high. Of these 150 awards, however, 63 were for $500 and another 33 for less than

$10,000. No grants for $500 were awarded in any of the preceding years. In sum, the increase is marked by the introduction of large numbers of very small grants, rather than by substantial funding of long-term research for women-related projects.

TABLE 3

NEH Project Grants Related to Women, FY1981-FY1984
(in millions)

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Total dollars, gender projects	$1.897	$1.341	$0.876	$2.4
(% of total agency budget)	(1.25%)	(1.02%)	(0.67%)	(1.71%)
Number of gender grants	66	38	43	150
Number of gender grants under $10,000	36	14	13	99
Total NEH budget	$151.3	$130.6	$130.1	$140.5

Notes: Amounts reported are for actual dollars received by the grantee during the fiscal year. These numbers may be different than the approved grant level. Also, the total NEH budget figures reported by COSSA include non-research grant funding.

Sources:
Special computer runs from the NEH grants database and COSSA Washington Update, February 1985.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBMITTED AND FUNDED PROPOSALS TO NEH, FY 1981

	Number of Grants	Number of Applications	Percent Funding Ratio
History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine	60	62	96.8
Black Studies	73	92	79.4
Library Science, Archival Management, Conservation	20	30	66.7
Ethnic Studies	52	90	57.8
Women's Studies	69	124	55.7
Italian Literature	11	20	55.0
American History	363	727	49.9
History of Philosophy	21	45	46.7
Composition and Rhetoric	28	70	40.0
History of Religion	24	61	39.3
American Studies	74	195	38.0
European History	82	230	35.7
Archaeology	54	152	35.5
Ethics	29	83	34.9
Political Science	52	159	32.7
Russian History	11	34	32.4
Art History and Criticism	80	260	30.8
Classical Literature	15	51	29.4
Classical History	10	35	28.6
Anthropology	105	376	27.9
American Literature	66	284	23.2
Sociology	70	310	22.6
Religion	38	168	22.6
Comparative Literature	29	132	22.0
Literature	85	407	20.9
British Literature	96	459	20.9
Philosophy	79	388	20.4
Linguistics	26	131	19.9
French Literature	24	123	19.5
Education	24	129	18.6
History	173	1,239	14.0
German Literature	6	55	10.9
NEH TOTAL	**3,071**	**10,143**	**30.3**

Source:
Information prepared by General Accounting Office

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBMITTED AND FUNDED PROPOSALS TO NEH, 1982

	Number of Grants	Number of Applications	Percent Funding Ratio
History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine	44	46	95.7
Library Science, Archival Management, and Conservation	13	14	92.9
History of Religion	26	32	81.3
Black Studies	38	62	61.3
History of Philosophy	20	40	50.0
American History	276	584	47.3
Classical History	17	41	41.5
Composition and Rhetoric	21	52	40.4
Archaeology	58	144	40.3
European History	73	193	37.8
Women's Studies	36	99	36.4
Italian Literature	7	20	35.0
Ethnic Studies	30	86	34.9
Art History and Criticism	63	189	33.3
American Studies	42	136	30.9
Classical Literature	19	64	29.7
Russian History	12	42	28.6
American Literature	66	242	27.3
Linguistics	27	102	26.5
German Literature	14	58	24.1
British Literature	82	341	24.1
Anthropology	84	360	23.3
Ethics	22	95	23.2
Comparitive Literature	26	117	22.2
Political Science	50	229	21.8
Religion	38	181	21.0
French Literature	15	72	20.8
Philosophy	59	318	18.6
Literature	59	342	17.3
Sociology	34	231	14.7
History	131	1,134	11.6
Education	10	93	10.8
NEH TOTAL	**2,550**	**8,726**	**29.2**

Source:
Information prepared by General Accounting Office

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBMITTED AND FUNDED PROPOSALS TO NEH, FY 1983

	Number of Grants	Number of Applications	Percent Funding Ratio
Library Science, Archival Management, and Conservation	3	5	60.0
History of Religion	9	17	52.9
History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine	10	19	52.6
Black Studies	20	40	50.0
Italian Literature	7	15	46.7
Archaeology	60	155	38.7
Classical Literature	22	59	37.3
American History	180	490	36.7
History of Philosophy	23	63	36.5
Russian History	14	39	35.9
Ethnic Studies	12	36	33.3
Composition and Rhetoric	16	53	30.2
Women's Studies	15	53	28.3
British Literature	112	396	28.3
American Studies	46	164	28.1
Anthropology	81	291	27.8
Comparitive Literature	35	129	27.1
Classical History	4	15	26.7
American Literature	69	265	26.0
Literature	82	317	25.9
European History	41	162	25.3
History	249	1,031	24.2
Philosophy	86	362	23.8
Political Science	52	220	23.6
Linguistics	28	120	23.3
Art History and Criticism	31	143	21.7
Education	18	87	20.7
French Literature	18	97	18.6
Religion	36	196	18.4
Ethics	8	59	13.6
German Literature	6	45	13.3
Sociology	21	189	11.1
NEH TOTAL	**2,393**	**8,192**	**29.2**

Source:
Information prepared by General Accounting Office

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fields of Project Categories, FY 1981

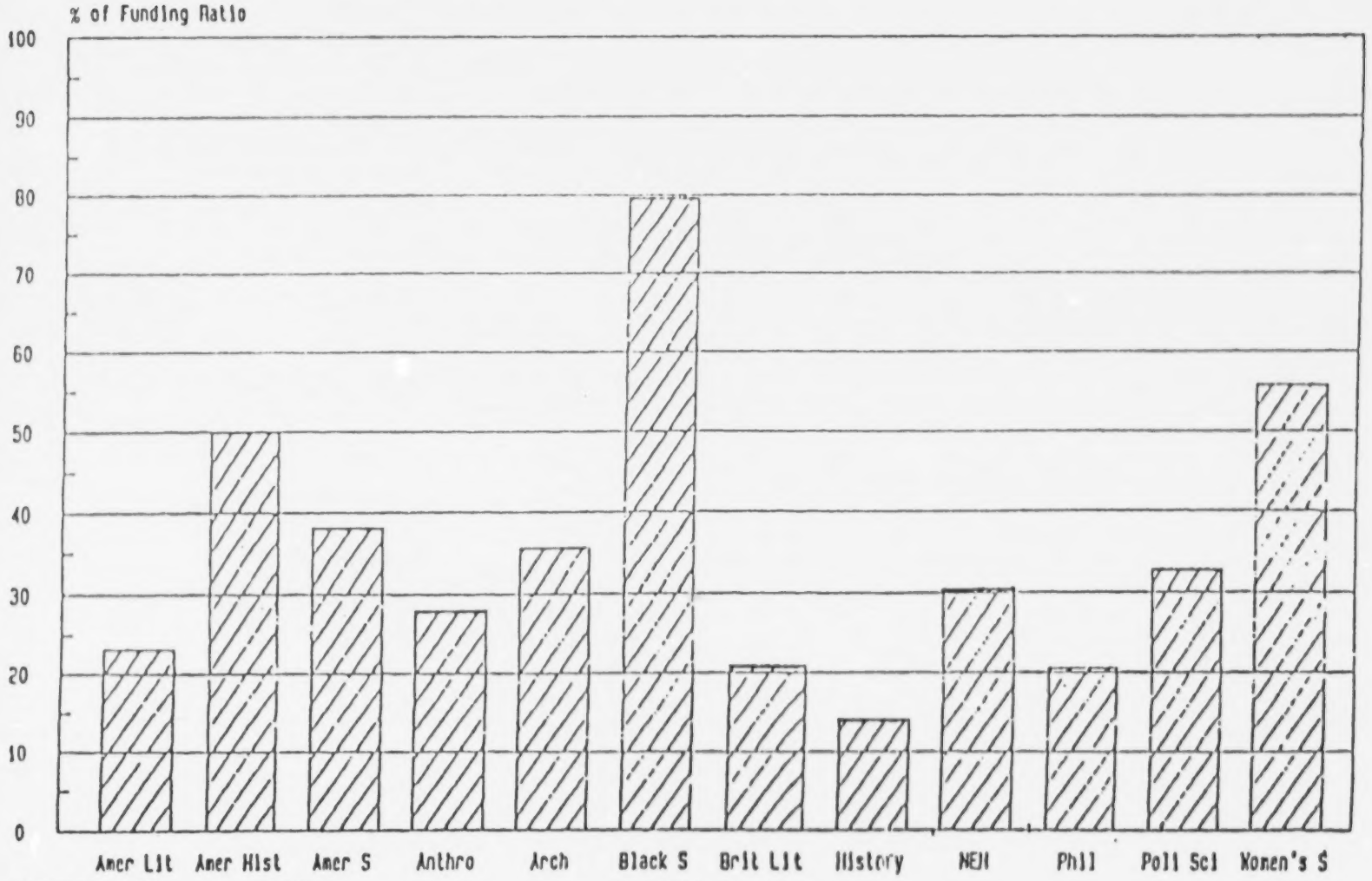

CHART 1

Source: GAO

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fields of Project Categories, FY 1982

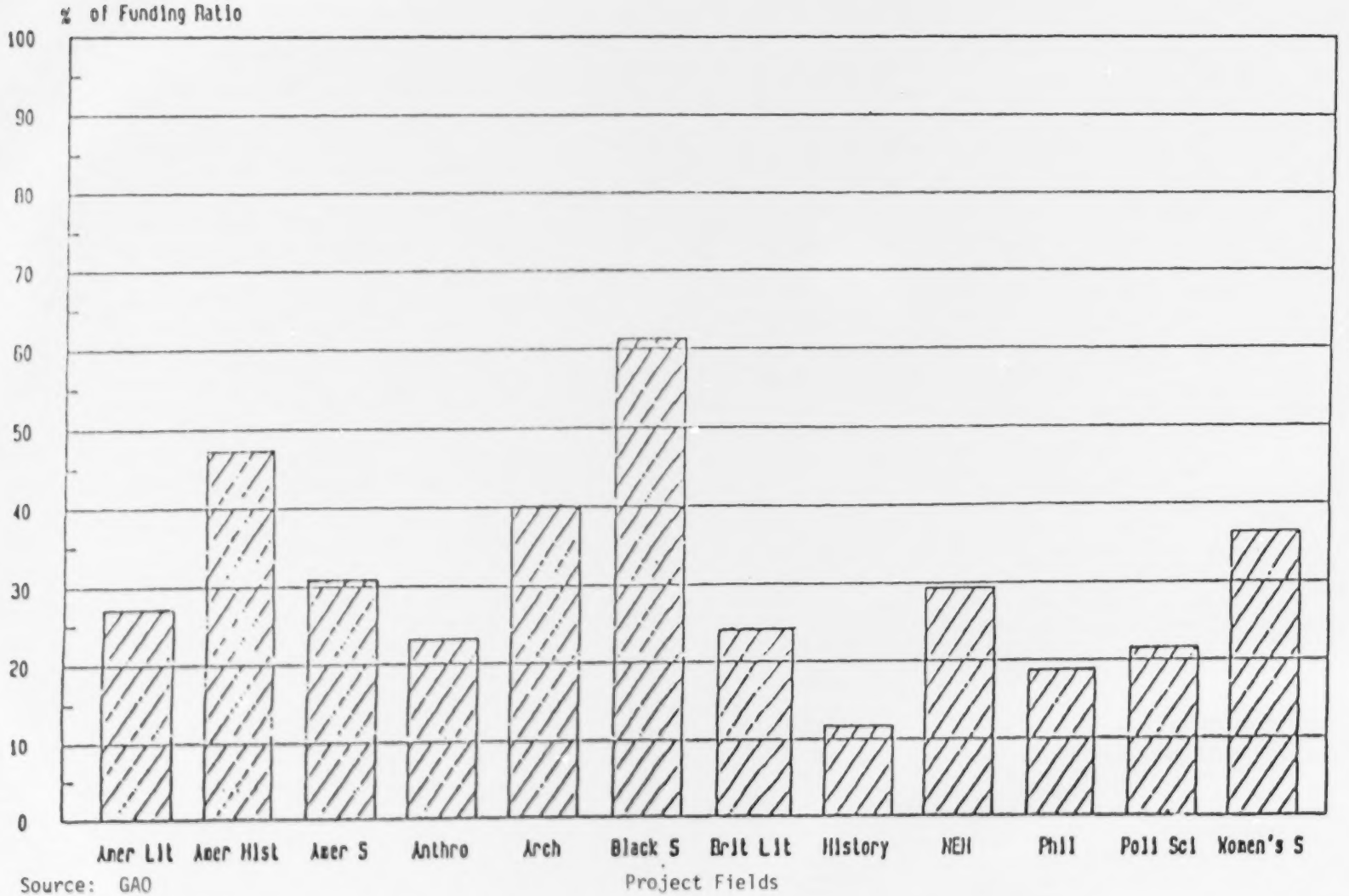

CHART II

Source: GAO

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Fields of Project Categories, FY 1983

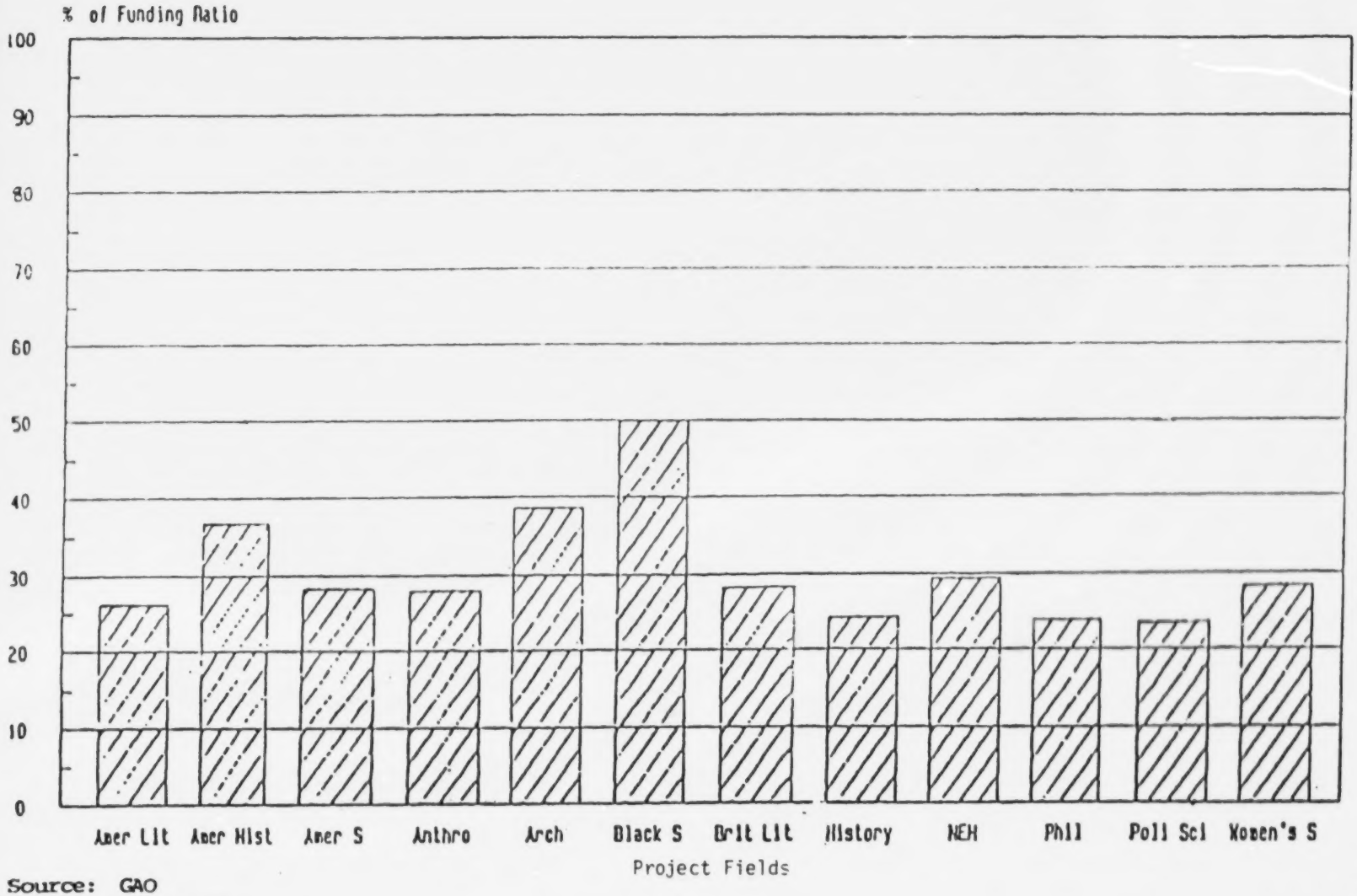

CHART III

Source: GAO

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

NSF, an independent grant-making agency similar to the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a major source for research and education support in the "hard" sciences, social sciences, and engineering. Prior to 1980, the Science Education Directorate was the central source of funds to address the under-representation of women in science. Since then, successful programs such as the Visiting Professorships for Women in Science have either been continued at reduced levels of commitment in cross-directorate programs or entirely eliminated.

According to COSSA, aggregate support for NSF research programs in the social and behavioral sciences declined by almost $10 million between FY1980 (the peak year) and FY1981. After two years of consecutive declines, the social sciences community rallied and was able to persuade Congress to expand rather than cut social science budgets at NSF even further. From the trough of $32.3 million in FY1982, aggregate funding for Social and Economic Sciences (SES) and Behavioral and Neural Sciences (BNS) within NSF has grown modestly. In fiscal year 1985, this level was $50.3 million which is about $2 million under the FY1980 peak.

This report analyzes two types of NSF funded projects--first, research directly or exclusively about women and second, within these two NSF divisions, research related to women or women's concerns. In addition, special targeted programs for women are discussed where they exist, such as the Women in Science Career Workshops, and finally gender breakdowns of the two pre-doctoral fellowship programs are presented. See Tables 7-10 at the end of this section.

In FY1981, a funding peak was reached for the combined categories of research about women and research related to women. Subsequently, funding levels declined unevenly within the SES and BNS Divisions, and also within the categories of research directly about women and research related to women.

Beginning with the current fiscal year, NSF will no longer publish NSF Grants and Awards for Fiscal Year: an agency-wide listing of all grants made within its divisions. Since each division will disseminate this information separately, funding trends and patterns within the agency as a whole will be more difficult to determine.

This trend reflects the general climate of decline within NSF research funding as a whole during the period. An analysis by COSSA shows that NSF research funding in the Social and Economic Sciences and the Behavioral and Neural Sciences Divisions generally declined over this 1979-1983 period from a high of $52.4 million in FY1980 to $36 million in FY1983.

The following is a year by year analysis of support for women's issues in the relevant divisions of NSF.

FY1979

Behavioral and Social Sciences

The funded research related to women or their concerns focuses on the family. The following three grant titles illustrate this subject area:

-- Family Determinants of Educational and Occupational Choices
-- Demographic and Economic Determinants of Family Form and Function
-- Support for the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) at the University of Michigan

Overall, two grants supported research directly about women, while fifteen grants supported research indirectly about women. Margaret Rossiter's study of American women scientists is an example of research support for a project directly about women.

Science Education

Under the Science Education Directorate, NSF sponsored a targeted program in FY1979 for "Minorities, Women and Physically Handicapped". Thirty-five grants supported "Women in Science Career Workshops" in forty colleges and universities in 25 states and Puerto Rico. These grants averaged $12,000. Women's projects received $1,198,000 or 40% of total funding for this special targeted program. The aggregate funding for the entire program was $2,806,000. Of this amount, $418,000 supported the career workshops for women, $704,000 in funding were awarded for seven "Women in Science Career Facilitation Projects," and $76,000 was granted to disseminate information about returning women in science.

Graduate Fellowships

Twenty-six fellowships were awarded to women out of a total of 125 fellowships or about one out of every five.

Minority Graduate Fellowships

Eighteen fellowships were awarded to women out of a total of 65 fellowships or slightly over one out of every four.

FY1980

Social and Economic Sciences

Research related to women continued to have a focus on the institution of the family and also paid some attention to labor market issues. The sole grant to support research directly about women in SES was a $118,000 grant to study gender diferences in scientific careers.

Behavioral and Neural Sciences

Research related to women included some attention to day care issues and mothering although both subject areas were rooted in the field of child development.

Research about women continued to be slight, with some attention paid to women's life cycle development, biological sex differences (e.g., "Hormones and Experience in Gender Differentiation"), physiological aspects of teen pregnancy (as opposed to social dimensions), and gender role acquisition.

Of the seven grants on topics directly about women in FY1980, only one was supported in the social science category. This low representation of social science within NSF projects directly about women improves over the FY1979-FY1983 period.

Interestingly, a few notable feminist scholars such as psychologist Naomi Weisstein received grants for non-gender related research (i.e., on complex visual perception).

Graduate Fellowships

The total number of awards in this category more than tripled over the prior year (from 125 to 402), while the total number of awards to women increased almost four-fold (from 26 to 113).

Overall, the available pool of fellowships increased substantially and women's share of the pool also improved from one in five in FY1979 to slightly over one in four in FY1980.

Minority Graduate Fellowships

While the absolute number of minority awards declined (from 65 to 55) over the period, minority women essentially reached <u>parity</u> with minority men in terms of awards received under this program. Women received 26 awards as compared to 29 to men. Thus, the proportion dramatically improved for minority women from about 1 in 4 to a one-to-one correspondence.

Special Targeted Programs

Under the Science Education Directorate, there was no separate targeted program for either women or minorities in the 1980 funding year.

FY1981

Social and Economic Sciences

The new prominence of economics in this area title (previously referred to only as "Social Sciences") has been interpreted by other sources to indicate the growing hegemony of economics within the social sciences in the view of the NSF.

Interestingly, research directly about women showed upward movement both in the number and dollar level of the grants. Grants to study the "earnings gap" and trends in women's employment opportunities are particularly notable in this period.
A sharp increase occurred in social science grants about women between fiscal years 1980 and 1981. Total grant expenditures in this area increased by 276%--from $118,000 to $326,000, while the number of grants jumped from one to nine (this includes a continuation grant for the FY1980 project).

In this area, the research subjects previously mentioned continued to dominate research related to women. In fact, many FY1981 awards simply continued support for projects initiated in earlier years. Also, a few new projects on similar topics were added.
The sharp growth in funding for research related to women in this area --from $988,000 to $1,263,000 can be attributed in large part to an almost half-million dollar grant for a household time allocation study conducted at the University of Michigan. This grant, together with a continuation grant for the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, accounted for over three-fifths of the funds in the SES category of research related to women.

Behavioral and Neural Sciences

Several new gender-specific projects were funded, for example, "Women Hunters in a Tropical Foraging Society," thus making identification of research grants about women easier and more evident. While the number of grants increased only slightly (from six in the prior year to seven in FY1981), total expenditures rose by over $200,000, with the mean grant amount moving from $44,000 to $67,000.

By contrast, research related to women in this category declined between fiscal years 1980 and 1981 by about $65,000--although the number of grants showed the same minimal increase (from six to seven grants). The mean dollar level per grant declined from $55,000 in FY1980 to $36,000 in FY1981.

Graduate Fellowships

In FY1981, both the total number of fellowships and the number of awards again increased, although not as sharply as in the prior year. Women received 157 of 498 fellowships or about one in three.

Minority Graduate Fellowships

The total number of these awards doubled from the prior year. Rough parity continued for a second year between recipients of these fellowships where minority women received 50 of 105 awards.

Special Targeted Programs

As in the prior year, there was no special targeted science education program for women (or minorities) in science.

FY1982

Social and Economic Sciences

Subject areas funded in prior years again continued to dominate the lists of awards. A slight decline in funding for research about women of about 17%--from $326,000 to $270,000--was noticed although the number of grants remained level. More than half of these grants were for new projects--rather than prior year continuations.

Social science funding for projects related to women fell quite dramatically--by 30% (from $1,263,000 to $883,000). The number of grants declined slightly (from twelve to ten). Once again, grants to support the PSID and household time study absorbed 60% of total grant dollars in this category.

Behavioral and Neural Sciences

The level of funding again declined sharply, that is by 39% (from $471,000 to $285,000).

The number of grants for research projects about women--split evenly between new and continuation awards--remained level from the prior year.

Research related to women in the BNS Division declined both in the level of funding and number of grants. Funding declined by 42% (from $255,000 to $149,000) while the number of grants were cut in half (from seven to three).

Graduate Fellowships

While the total number of fellowships remained level, the proportion of female recipients dropped slightly over the period.
Women received 147 of 500 awards.

Minority Graduate Fellowships

Minority women lost ground in proportion to men as "percent female" of the awards declined from 48% to 42%. Both the total number of program awards and also the absolute number received by minority women fell by 50%.

Special Targeted Programs for Women

For the third consecutive year, no separate targeted program for women within the Science Education Directorate existed.

FY1983

Social and Economic Sciences

The trend to fund projects with an explicit focus on gender continued. Curiously, the amount of funding for research about women remained level at about a quarter of a million dollars although the total number of these grants declined by one-third (from nine to six). Most of the projects were new rather than continuations from prior years.

A sharper decline was present in the area of research related to women and their concerns. Funding dropped by $100,000 while the number of grants remained level.

Behavioral and Neural Sciences

The only increase in funding levels for research in any way related to women since the FY1981 peak occurred in the BNS Division in FY1983. An additional $85,000 or 30% was awarded over the prior year. For the first time, almost half of the grants concerned cross-cultural perspectives on gender.

A sharp decline appeared in the funding within the BNS Division for research related to women. Only a single small grant of $11,000 was awarded for a study of the effects of divorce on children.

Graduate Fellowships

The number of fellowships received by women declined slightly (from 147 to 131) which is consistent with a decline in the aggregate level of fellowships from 500 to 450. Because of this, the proportion of awards to females remained level at about one in four.

Minority Graduate Fellowships

Minority women continued to fare better than women in the general fellowship program since they received exactly half of the fifty minority fellowships awarded in FY1983.

Special Targeted Programs

There was again no special targeted program for women evident in NSF Grants and Awards volume for 1983.

TABLE 7

National Science Foundation Research Grants, FY1979-FY1983
All Social and Behavioral Sciences
(in rounded thousands)

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Research About Women	$79	$381	$797	$555	$643
Research Related to Women	$1,110	$1,307	$1,518	$1,032	$780
Total	$1,189	$1,688	$2,315	$1,587	$1,423

N.B. Excludes targeted science education programs for women.

Source:
NSF Grants and Awards, fiscal years 1979 - 1983.

TABLE 8

National Science Foundation Research Grants, FY1979-FY1983
Division of Social and Economic Sciences
(in rounded thousands)

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Research About Women	$79	$118	$326	$270	$273
Research Related to Women	$937	$988	$1,263	$883	$769
Total	$1,016	$1,106	$1,589	$1,153	$1,042

Source:
NSF Grants and Awards for fiscal years 1979 - 1983.

TABLE 9

National Science Foundation Research Grants, FY1979-FY1983
Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences
(in rounded thousands)

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Research About Women	$0	$263	$471	$285	$370
Research Related to Women	$173	$319	$255	$149	$11
Total	$173	$582	$726	$434	$381

Source:
NSF Grants and Awards for fiscal years 1979-1983.

TABLE 10

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Programs,
FY1979 - FY1983
(in rounded thousands)

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Graduate Fellowships					
Women	29	113	157	147	131
Men	96	289	341	353	319
Total	125	402	498	500	450
% Female	23%	28%	32%	29%	29%
Minority Fellowships					
Women	18	26	50	23	25
Men	47	29	55	32	25
Total	65	55	105	55	50
% Female	28%	47%	48%	42%	50%

Source:
NSF Grants and Awards for fiscal years 1979-1983.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Introduction

Prior to the Reagan administration, two entities within the Department of Labor supported social science research about women: the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Women's Bureau. The following analysis of their funding patterns, however, differs from all other sections of this study due to the singular lack of available empirical data confronting us.

Despite persistent efforts, we were unable to obtain data for either the pre-1980 or 1980-1984 periods. It is unclear whether or not the Department maintains a computerized grants management database for current and completed grants and contracts. The inability to determine the existence of such a database stems in part from the erosion in staffing levels and morale during the period under examination. High-level career civil servants have been RIFed, transferred, taken early retirement, or simply become demoralized. Given the Department's historically important role in supporting a panoply of social science research, both theoretical and applied, we could not simply ignore this agency in our study. Instead, we employed a more qualitative approach in our analysis of trends in its funding support for gender-related research.

Employment and Training Administration

Pre-1980

During a period spanning the Johnson and Carter administrations, the Employment and Training Administration established an impressive track record while fulfilling its mission as the Department's central extramural, research-funding arm. A two-volume, 800 page compendium, Research and Development Projects: 1963-1980, describes an array of research studies funded through Employment and Training Administration grants and contracts. Unfortunately, the write-ups in these two volumes omit funding levels. We know all the key facts about these studies except how much they cost.

The findings of many of these studies have been influential in shaping national social welfare policy in, among others, the areas of work, training, and income transfer programs. Other studies are now recognized to have generated new theoretical insights--about the operations of labor markets and other social institutions, for example.

Beginning in the mid-1970s, the Employment and Training Administration began to support grants to investigate gender-related issues. These included: studies on the effects of marital and family status on

women's labor force participation, occupational segregation, acquisition of human capital, as well as studies on a range of employer- and institutional-policies with gender-based discriminatory effects. In addition, other ETA-supported projects began to pay more attention to gender as a salient variable.

As we have argued elsewhere, feminist social science research plays a crucial role in the public policy arena by identifying, describing, and illuminating the breadth and depth of social problems. Occupational segregation, domestic violence, the feminization of poverty, and rape are examples of social problems where our understanding of the problems' structural bases and complexity required a foundation of data and analysis unavailable until the emergence of the new scholarship on women.

Empirical evidence collected and analyzed with Employment and Training Administration funds was often used to address gender inequities and to shape legislation and regulations. For example, ETA-sponsored research contributed to a deeper understanding of the factors affecting occupational segregation and the issue of equal pay for work of comparable worth. One of the most important and productive projects supported by the Employment and Training Administration is the series of National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Force Experience (NLS). NLS data have been widely used for research, including gender-based research on labor force participation, wage structures, retirement plans, welfare dependency, and related topics.

FY1980-FY1984

After 1980, catastrophic cutbacks were made in aggregate funding levels for the Employment and Training Administration's research and evaluation activities. The figures are as follows:

(in millions of dollars)

FY1981 --	$249
FY1982 --	$100
FY1983 --	$ 14
FY1984 --	$ 12

By 1983, the Employment and Training Administration began to close down its R&D operations. RIFs and internal agency transfers have decimated the ranks of mid-level career civil servants. Apparently, the remaining staff are to be housed in the Women's Bureau beginning sometime in 1985.

The NLS funding was rescued only after a big Congressional battle; however, funding for gender research was not.

The fragmentary data available to us show that four projects about women totaling $335,000 were supported in FY1981. In FY1982, two projects totalling $264,000 were funded. A single grant of $50,000 to support research about women was awarded in FY1983. Finally, in

FY1984, the only award related to women was an internal transfer of $500,000 to support the Displaced Homemaker Program run by the Women's Bureau. (These figures do not include agency support for the NLS.)

Titles of ETA-Supported Projects About Women

FY1981
-- Planning Grant to Place Professional Flight Attendants in Alternative Career Patterns

-- The Determinants and Wages of Occupational Segregation

-- Women and Apprenticeship

-- Illness and Disability as Factors Prompting Dependence on Seasonal Agricultural Labor Among Chicanas Within the Midwest Migratory Stream

FY1982
-- Evaluation of Training for AFDC Women

-- Impact of Office Automation for Office Workers

FY1983
-- Investigation of the Perceptions of Black Females

-- Heads of Households Toward Upward Mobility and Non-Traditional Career Areas

FY1984
-- Displaced Homemakers Program (internal fund transfer to the Women's Bureau)

The Women's Bureau

The Women's Bureau, within the Office of the Secretary of Labor, is the sole federal agency devoted exclusively to the concerns of women in the labor force. Its 1920 mandate was and is "to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment." It has worked to advocate at all levels of government for improvements in the status of working women; to analyze and disseminate gender-related employment data and policy issues; to sponsor and evaluate model and demonstration projects, for example, non-traditional apprenticeships for women and worksite day care; and to provide technical assistance to individuals and organizations about the rights and position of women in the labor force.

The Women's Bureau has never been a major funder of research about women; instead the Bureau Director has worked closely with the Employment and Training Administration to arrange R&D support. Despite the absence of its own budget to fund research about women's employment, prior to Reagan's election, the Bureau had played a key advocacy role to foster federal support of such research. Since 1980, however, the advocacy of the Bureau has diminished.

The following quote, from a report of the Manpower and Housing Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Committee on Government Operations ("The Women's Bureau: Is It Meeting the Needs of Women Workers?" October 5, 1984) was also given as testimony before Congress in July 1985:

> From 1981 through mid-1984, the Bureau published only 11 publications containing 27 pages of economic and employment information; from 1977 thorough 1980, on the other hand, 33 publications were released, containing 110 pages of data and analyses. This diminution of an essential service was unanimously deplored by a wide diversity of witnesses.
>
> The [Women's Bureau] director did not blame the cutback in publications on government-wide restrictions or on budget limitations. Thus, it appears to the Committee that, regrettably, the preparation and dissemination of publications is no longer a high priority for the Women's Bureau.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

NIHM is the branch of the Department of Health and Human Services that supports development, testing, and dissemination of knowledge on: (a) the epidemiology, treatment, prevention, and typology of mental illnesses and emotional disorders, and (b) the behavioral, biological, and environmental factors that affect mental illness and mental health.

NIMH carries out its mission through the support of extramural and intramural research studies and research and clinical training programs. Table 11 presents aggregate funding levels for these four programs between the 1981 and 1984 fiscal years.

NIMH Support of Research About Women in the 1970s

Prior to 1980, NIHM was a major supporter of innovative research about women's lives and changing sex roles. Considerable attention was paid to divorce, rape, female-headed households, widowhood, motherhood, the intersection of gender and race/ethnicity, careers, women's life cycles, and stress and multiple roles.

NIMH Support for Projects About Women, FY1980-FY1984

Table 12 presents data on shifts in funding levels and number of grants for NIMH support of research about women and of research related to women. After 1980, overall funding for extramural and intramural research increased during the period FY1980-FY1984, while funding for research training and clinical training declined (see Table 11).

There is an overall topical shift within NIMH funding initiatives away from investigations of social problems such as poverty and toward more explicitly diseased-based studies of mental ilnesses such as phobias. A grant-by-grant analysis of the NIMH database subfile on women shows an increasing prevalence of research on the psychological illness of individuals. Topics include: personality disorders, unspecified adult affective disorders, and abnormal psychological processes.

The aggregate funding of NIMH support for studies related indirectly to women increased between FY1983 and FY1984. However, the level of funding to support studies directly about women fell sharply. This illustrates an internal shift within NIMH funding priorities: away from research explicitly about women and social problems--on subjects such as the de-skilling of clerical work--to a focus on mental illness and disease or, for example, family studies in which maternal behavior is simply one of several variables under study.

During the FY1980 year, the nature of funded projects for research about women continued to be wide-ranging and explicitly focused on women's lives and social conditions. The following list of project titles illustrates this diversity.

-- Women in Clerical Work. The Impacts of Job Conditions.

-- Sex and Sexual Violence in Fiction: Content and Control.

-- The Female Headed Black Family: Philadelphia 1838-1880.

-- Old and Alone: Gender, Marital Status and Mental Health.

-- Relative Deprivation and Working Women.

-- Retired Women: Career Commitment and Mental Health.

-- Stress and Families: Changing Sex Roles and Mental Health Services.

-- Sexual and Family Violence: An Historical Case Study.

Historically, a NIMH-funded research study could expect to obtain continuation funding for several years after the initial grant period. Beginning in FY1981, however, the number of research projects explicitly about women that received continuation funding began to drop. By FY1983, none of the projects listed above were still receiving NIMH support. More important, few <u>new</u> explicitly feminist research projects were receiving awards.

Support for research about women declined by almost $3 million--over 40%--between FY1980 and FY1982. Subsequently, funding for projects about women fell by over $1 million between FY1982 and FY1984. Although the absolute dollar value of this decline is less in this latter period (because of a smaller base in FY1982 as compared to that in FY1980), we note that funding for research about women declined by almost 30% between FY1982 and FY1984.

NIMH support for studies that in some way were related to women (albeit perhaps in a borderline fashion) did not experience the same declines. In fact, there was a 50% <u>increase</u> of $4 million for research related to women during the FY1982-FY1984 period.

The following project titles are illustrative of these programmatic shifts during the FY1982-FY1984 period:

Reproductive Failure: Mental Health Effects on Women

Cardiac Functions in Anorexia Nervosa

A Prospective Study of Postpartum Depression

Parenthetically, research on rape was the single largest category of research about women that focused on social problems in the FY1984 period. These seven studies received $985,000 of the total $2,645,000 funding awarded to research explicitly about women.

NIMH Training Grants

NIMH also provides support for the scholarly research community through its pre-doctoral and post-doctoral research training grants program. An inquiry to NIMH revealed that the general research purposes of these training grants cannot be identified from the project write-ups. Although we were unable to identify the extent of funding for research about women represented in this program, we did obtain gender breakdowns of the trainees. These data, presented in Table 13, show that the proportion of individual female recipients in these programs improved somewhat since 1980.

TABLE 11

NIMH Aggregate Funding Levels, FY1981-FY1984
(in millions)

	1981	1982	1983	1984
Extramural research	$109.6	$102.9	$106.9	$128.1
Intramural research	38.9	42.8	50.4	52.9
Research training	18.9	15.2	15.4	15.4
Clinical training	62.4	42.3	20.1	20.1

Source:
COSSA Washington Update, February 15, 1985.

TABLE 12

National Institute of Mental Health Research Grants About Women
Fiscal Years 1980-1984
(in millions)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Research About Women	$6.49 (65)	$5.42 (58)	$3.72 (36)	$3.38 (43)	$2.65 (36)
Research Related to Women	6.24 (73)	5.84 (57)	8.07 (69)	8.42 (76)	12.63 (111)
Total	12.73 (138)	11.26 (115)	11.79 (105)	11.80 (119)	15.28 (147)

Notes

1. Figures in parentheses refer to the number of grants.

2. NIMH training grants are not included.

3. The category of "research related to women" includes all studies in the NIMH database subfile with at least one term related to women such as "maternal behavior" or "anorexia nervosa." However, some of these grants may be borderline in their relevance to women.

Source:
Special computer run of NIMH grants database.

TABLE 13

NIMH Training and Fellowship Award Programs by Gender
FY1980-FY1984

Percent Female

Program	FY80	FY81	FY82	FY83	FY84
Trainees, All	62% (3921)	66% (3783)	52% (1116)	53% (910)	56% (524)
Pre-doctoral	66% (3295)	70% (3233)	56% (696)	59% (514)	62% (339)
Post-doctoral	39% (626)	43% (550)	45% (420)	45% (396)	46% (185)
Fellows, All	44% (228)	48% (148)	45% (112)	48% (115)	48% (91)
Pre-doctoral	52% (85)	54% (56)	48% (40)	74% (38)	59% (41)
Post-doctoral	39% (143)	45% (92)	43% (72)	35% (77)	40% (50)

Source:
NIMH

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Several sources indicate that the Pentagon is engaged in a substantial number of social science investigations and is perhaps a larger supporter of social science research than, for example, the National Institute of Mental Health. According to the 1985 COSSA report, however, the identification of support levels for this type of research is elusive:

> With the exception of the U.S. Army Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences and the Psychological Sciences Division of the Office of Naval Research (ONR), specific budget levels for the behavioral and social sciences are not necessarily pre-determined. Instead, a proposal is funded when agency personnel feel it meets their particular needs, regardless of the discipline involved. (p.10)

1978-1981

The Smithsonian Science Information Exchange (SSIE) database revealed at least twenty-nine projects about women underway in the late 1970's. Project abstracts indicate that the majority of these projects were conducted internally. No financial data were provided in the Defense Department entries, however, in part because of the limitations of the SSIE database and in part because of the Defense Department's reporting system.

The research studies conducted by the Defense Department as reported to the SSIE database for this period clustered into three categories: evaluation of training and performance of female military personnel; design and field testing of modifications to standard military uniforms, equipment and worksites to meet the needs of women military personnel; and physiological studies about sex differences in strength, agility and other military-task related characteristics.

The following projects show the nature and range of Defense Department research for the 1978-1981 period as reported to the SSIE:

--Utilization of Women in Combat: An Historical and Behavioral Science Analysis

--Determination of Maximum Ripcord Pull Force Capability of Female Test Parachutists and Manual Record Activation Technique

--Health and Performance Effectiveness in Navy Enlisted Women

--Integrating Women into Previously All-Male Air Force Units

--Assessment of First Term Attrition Among Women Marines

--Naval Architecture Research for Women at Sea

1980-1984

Despite concerted effort, it was impossible to locate an information officer, an in-house grants database, or other resources with which to investigate more precisely the nature of Pentagon involvement in either social science in general or research about women in particular during the FY1978-FY1981 period. More important, an examination of Pentagon endeavors in these areas for the recent past (FY1980-FY1984) must also be deferred until such data become available. Given the current political climate, it is unlikely that such data will be forthcoming or that it will be possible to build a comprehensive picture of Pentagon-related research about women.

Veteran's Administration

1978-1981

The Veteran's Administration (VA) reported 12 research projects on women to the SSIE database for the 1978-1981 period. Like the Defense Department, the VA did not report funding levels for these projects. Other parallels with the Pentagon include the lack of sources to investigate the more contemporary period.

Research projects about women supported and conducted by the VA are wide-ranging. We note with interest that not all of the female research subjects are veterans. The following list indicates the diversity of this VA research:

--Selected Physiological Differences and Menstrual Characteristics of Female Distance Runners

--The Role of Ethanol in Acts of Violence Against Women

--Psychophysiological Correlates of Cognitive Functioning in Male and Female Alcoholics and Non-Alcoholics

--Older Women in the Labor Force: The Occupational Status of VA Personal Care Home Providers

--Carbon Dioxide Responsiveness in Women Undergoing a Running Training Program

--Social Support Systems and Networks of Overweight and Normal Weight Women

Lack of data prevents us from exploring the extent to which the VA provided extramural funding for these and similar topics.

1980-1984

Lack of data prevents an analysis of funding trends for projects about women supported by the VA after 1980.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Department of Justice may not leap to mind as a federal agency that funds and conducts research about women. In the 1970's, however, the Department was a dedicated supporter of research about women in the criminal justice system--women as victims, offenders, prison inmates, and enforcement and correctional professionals--through its National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Other research into related social problems that received NIJ attention and funding included domestic violence, rape, and other violent crimes against women.

National Institute of Justice

The mission of NIJ is to support and conduct basic and applied research on federal, state, and local criminal and civil justice systems; the detection, apprehension, and rehabilitation of criminals; and the dissemination of research results. Its major funding initiatives include R&D project grants, NIJ visiting fellowships, and dissertation support. After a major Congressional battle, NIJ was reauthorized for four more years.

Pre-1980

Prior to FY1980, categorial awards made by NIJ to support research about or related to women amounted to $1.243 million. These included grants to conduct studies on topics such as the status of women employed in the field of corrections, evaluations of a coeducational prison pilot project, the origins of women's prisons, and laws about prostitution. According to experts in the field of criminal justice, the impact and significance of these grants was far higher than is evident from either the total number of such grants (ten) or their combined funding levels during the late '70s.

1980-1984

NIJ categorical award funding levels for research projects about or relating to women peaked at $642,000 in FY1980. Subsequent funding levels on these subjects moved erratically from the minimal sum of $10,000 in FY1981 to $239,000 in FY1984. The nature of the funded research topics remained similar to projects funded in the earlier period; however, we note with interest that one-third of the total number of projects about women funded in FY1980 or later were studies about rapists rather than the victims of rape as was the case in the pre-1980 period.

Although the total NIJ budget has had modestly increased funding since FY1981--from $13.7 million in FY1981 to $18.6 million in FY1984--the agency's support for research about women has been curtailed. Staff reductions at NIJ is a contributing factor.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is a branch of the National Institutes of Health within the Department of Health and Human Services. NIA conducts and supports biomedical and behavioral research to increase the knowledge of the aging process and associated physical, psychological, and social factors resulting from advanced age. Menopause, susceptibility to diseases, and memory loss are among the areas of special concern of the Institute.

The Institute has the distinctive characteristic of rising funding to support social and behavioral research as a whole between fiscal years 1980 and 1984. COSSA reports that the proportion of NIA extramural research funds spent to support social and behavioral science research increased from 14% in FY1983 to an estimated 20% in FY1985. Social and behavioral science research support decreased slightly in the intramural research budget, from 14% in FY1981 to an estimated 11% in FY1985 (see Table 14).

Consistent with this overall agency trend, funding levels in the Behavioral Sciences Research Division that supported extramural research projects whose titles indicated that women were a major focus of the particular study also increased during this period. The computer printout obtained from the Institute omitted project abstracts and indexing terms; we were thus unable to isolate projects about or related to women which had non-gender specific titles. Consequently, the full extent of NIA funding during this time period for research about/related to women may be underrepresented in Table 14.

With this caveat in mind, Table 14 shows that FY1984 was the peak funding year for women-related research--both in terms of absolute numbers of funded extramural projects and in relative and absolute dollar levels. Funding data for FY1985 show, however, a falling off from the previous year.

No particular shifts in areas of interest related to women and aging were noticeable in the titles of FY1980-FY1984 projects. Examples of funded research projects during this time period included:

--Psychosocial and Biological Adaptation to Aging in Women

--Aging and Aged Black Women

--An Epidemiological Investigation of the Menopause

--Work, Middle-Aged, and Older Women

--Female Life Patterns--Aging and Health

TABLE 14

National Institute of Aging Extramural Research Grants
Relating to Women, Division of Behavioral Sciences Research (BSR)

FY1980-FY1985
(in thousands)

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Number of grants about women	8	3	6	9	15	5
Dollar levels of grants about women	$307	$467	$446	$765	$2,035	$852
BSR extramural research grants, Total	$10,285	$9,723	$10,588	$12,863	$17,996	$11,670
% BSR extramural awards for projects on women	3%	4.8%	4.2%	6%	11.3%	7.3%

Source:
Special computer run of NIA research grants database.

Notes:
1. See text above for discussion of possible undercount of gender-related funding levels.

2. Dollar amounts represent total award level of the grant including indirect costs to sponsoring institution.

APPENDIX

We found only three on-line databases to be of any interest: the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange (SSIE), the Commerce Business Daily, and the Federal Procurement Data System. The Commerce Business Daily did not include "women" as a descriptor but instead only "women-owned businesses" (for contract bidding purposes). The Federal Procurement Data System's idea of R&D included project funding for activities like constructing women's locker rooms in federal institutions--not research as we conceive of it. Neither database was useful for our purposes.

Smithsonian Science Information Exchange

The SSIE is a federal database project begun in the 1970's with the intention of centralizing information on federal support for R&D projects in the social sciences and humanities as well as more technical fields. It requested agencies to submit project abstracts of its intramural and extramural research activities.

There are three main problems with this database. First, it was defunded in 1981-1982, so the time span is limited. Second, data collection by the SSIE relied entirely on self-reports by federal agencies and administrative units with little or no oversight monitoring. The reliability, comprehensiveness, and overall quality of the data are therefore problematic. Some entries contain only partial information. The SSIE printout therefore presents an interesting but inherently limited picture of federal funding about women.

A search of the SSIE database for fiscal years 1978-1981 generated about 643 grants with female-related indexing terms. Of these, over 100 were studies of female animals, construction funds for physical facilities for women, or otherwise inappropriate for our purposes. A pilot analysis of the remaining grants was done to get a sense of the quality and utility of the printout.

Parenthetically, we note that 3.2% of all grants related to women in the SSIE database between 1978 and 1982 were awarded to member centers of the National Council for Research on Women.

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